

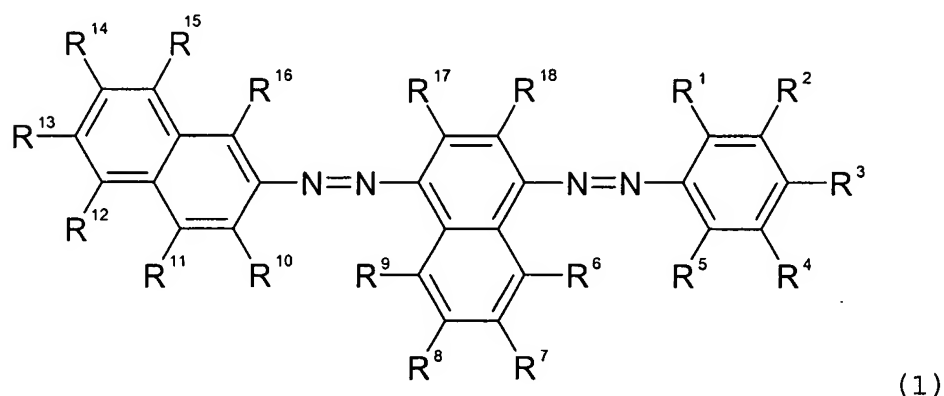
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing.

1. (Currently Amended) An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension, comprising at least one gas black, an azo compound of formula 1,



wherein  $R^1 - R^{18}$  may be identical or different and are members selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydrophilic or hydrophobic groups, acceptor or donor substituents or portions of aliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic, acyclic, cyclic or multiple cyclic systems with acceptor, donor, hydrophilic ~~or~~ and hydrophobic groups, and water.

2. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the gas black has a volatile matter content (950°C) of < 21 % by weight, a BET

surface area of 80 to 350 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a primary particle size of 8 to 40 nm and a DBP number of 40 to 200 ml/100 g

3. (Currently Amended) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the gas black content is present in an amount of < 30 % by weight.

4. (Currently Amended) An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound content of formula 1 is present in an amount of < 5 % by weight.

5. (Previously Presented) An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound of formula 1 contains less than 30 % by weight contamination.

6. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, wherein the azo compound of formula 1 contains less than 10 % by weight salt.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension comprising at least one gas black, water and an ~~according to claim 1, wherein the~~ azo compound which is a member selected from the group consisting of:

2-[[4-[(1-hydroxy-6-phenylamino-3-sulpho-naphthalen-2-yl)azo]-6-sulpho-naphthalen-1-yl]azo]-5-methyl-benzene-1,4-disulphonic acid,

5-[4-(4-(7-[[2-ethoxy-4-(4-methyl-2-sulpho-phenylazo)-6-sulpho-naphthalen-1-yl]azo]-8-hydroxy-3,6-disulpho-naphthalen-1-ylamino)-6-phenylsulphanyl-[1,3,5]triazin-2-ylamino]-phenylazo]-2-hydroxy-benzoic acid and

tetrasodium-6-amino-4-hydroxy-3-[[7-sulphonato-4-[(4-sulphonatophenyl)azo]-1-naphth-1-yl]azo]naphthalene-2,7-disulphonate and at least one of a biocide, a wetting agent or an additive, wherein the wetting agent is present between 0 and 1% by weight.

8. (Previously Presented) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, wherein the azo compound contains less than 30 % by weight contamination and less than 10 % by weight salt.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim [[9]] 7, wherein the wetting agent is a member selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol ethoxylate, polyacrylic acid, polyacrylic acid derivatives, copolymer containing acrylic acid, acrylic acid derivatives, styrenes, styrene derivatives, polyethers, lignin sulphonate, alkyl benzene sulphonate, naphthalene sulphonic acid derivative, copolymer containing maleic acid anhydride maleic acid derivatives and mixtures thereof.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim [[9]] 7, wherein the additive is an alcohol, glycol, glycol ether, heterocycle or glycerol.

13. (Currently Amended) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim [[9]] 7, wherein the additive content is present in an amount of < 30 % by weight.

14. (Currently Amended) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, which is free from wetting agent, the ~~content of the~~ azo compound of general formula I

is between 0.1 and 1 % by weight and ~~the salt content of~~ where the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension is has a salt content of less than 2500 ppm.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for producing the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 7, comprising dispersing the gas black and the ~~soluble~~ azo compound of formula 1 in water.

16. (Currently Amended) The process for producing the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 15, wherein the dispersing is carried out in a bead mill, ultrasound equipment, high-pressure homogenizer, microfluidiser, ~~Ultra-Turrax or comparable unit~~ high shear mixer.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for making a composition of matter comprising mixing the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 7 into inks, ink jet inks, paints, printing inks, latices, textiles, leather, adhesives, silicones, plastics materials, concrete or construction materials.

18. (Currently Amended) An ink composition comprising a vehicle and the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 7.

19. (Currently Amended) The ink according to claim 18, wherein the ~~content of~~ azo compound of formula 1 is between 0.01 and 0.5 % by weight.

20. (Currently Amended) The ink according to claim 18, which is free from wetting agent, ~~the content of~~ the azo compound of formula is between 0.01 and 0.5 % by weight and ~~the salt content of the ink~~ ~~[[is]]~~ has a salt content of less than 250 ppm.

21. (New) The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, wherein the amount of the wetting agent is from 0 to 0.4% by weight.